

HIV SURVEILLANCE AMONG ROYAL THAI ARMY (RTA) CONSCRIPTS

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PROGRESS REPORT

Recruitment of male conscripts (mostly 21-year-olds) occurs in April every year with placement taking place twice a year in May and November. HIV screening was done on 28,011 conscripts who were part of the November 2003 group and prevalence was found to be 0.6%. HIV screening was also done on 30,251 conscripts from May 2004 and prevalence was 0.5%. When demographic factors were analyzed, it was found that in the first group, (Nov/03), conscripts between 18-20 years old had a significantly higher prevalence rate than the other age groups, which consisted of 21-year-olds and 22-30 year olds respectively. (2.5%, 0.5% and 1.4% orderly) ($p \leq 0.001$), ($p < 0.05$). However, in the second group (May/04) the 18-20 year olds were found to have a lower rate than the 21-year-olds and those between 22-30 years of age. The highest percentages were observed in Bangkok and the South (1% and 0.5% orderly) for the first group. While in the second group, they were observed in Bangkok and the Central region.